

Message Text

SECRET

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72

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 060400Z APR 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1617

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

S E C R E T PEKING 0579

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR CH

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH VICE FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO KUAN-HUA

BEGIN SUMMARY: VICE FONMIN CHIAO KUAN-HUA SAID THERE HAS BEEN NO BASIC CHANGE IN U.S.-PRC RELATIONS DESPITE SOME MINOR PROBLEMS WHICH NATURALLY ARISE. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THE UNGER APPOINTMENT TO TAIPEI AND EXPANSION OF GR CONSULAR FACILITIES IN THE U.S. HE APPEARED CONCERNED ABOUT EUROPEAN PROBLEMS, AND I GAVE HIM MY VIEWS BASED ON MY RECENT VISITS TO WASHINGTON, LONDON AND PARIS. HE ENCOURAGED CONTINUED U.S. EFFORTS TOWARD A MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT AND WARNED THAT THE USSR WOULD PROFIT FROM A U.S. FAILURE IN THE AREA.

THE ANTI-SOVIET THEME RAN THROUGHOUT CHIAO'S REMARKS, AND AT ONE POINT HE PRONOUNCED THEM THE MOST PERFIDIOUS PEOPLE IN THE WORLD. CHIAO HAD LITTLE TO SAY ON THE SPECIAL UNGA, BUT VOLUNTEERED HE PLANNED TO STAY ONLY THE FIRST WEEK OF THE SESSION. IF POSSIBLE, HE HOPES TO SEE THE SECRETARY DURING THAT TIME. END SUMMARY.

1. SHORTLY BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR SPECIAL UNGA SESSION IN NEW YORK I HAD VICE FONMIN CHIAO KUAN-HUA FOR DINNER AT HOME ALONG WITH AMERICAS AND OCEANIAN DIVISION CHIEF

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LIN P'ING, CHAO CHI-HUA AND SHEN JO-YUN OF MFA. ALSO

PRESENT ON THE U.S. SIDE WERE DC'S JENKINS AND HOLDRIDGE, AND POLITICAL SECTION CHIEF ANDERSON. CHIAO WAS IN GOOD FORM, AND THE CONVERSATION WAS ALMOST ENTIRELY SUBSTANTIVE THROUGHOUT THE EVENING.

2. CHIAO'S REMARKS ON U.S.-PRC RELATIONS AND THE QUESTION OF TAIWAN WERE INTERESTING. I REFERRED TO THE LOREN JENKINS ARTICLE ON DECLINING SINO-U.S. RELATIONS IN THE APRIL 1 ISSUE OF "NEWSWEEK", AND ASKED IF THE REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI WERE ACCURATELY REPORTED. CHIAO DID NOT ANSWER THE QUESTION DIRECTLY, BUT SAID MUCH OF THE PRESS SPECULATION ON THIS SUBJECT HAD BEEN INACCURATE. SINO-U.S. RELATIONS, HE SAID, CONTINUED TO BE GOOD. HE AGREED WITH WHAT I HAD TOLD THE PRESS AT PEKING AIRPORT ON MY RETURN TO THE EFFECT THAT I WAS UNAWARE OF ANY DETERIORATION IN U.S.-PRC RELATIONS. HOWEVER, AS WITH EVERY OTHER MISSION IN PEKING, CERTAIN MINOR PROBLEMS ARISE FROM TIME TO TIME. ASKED TO BE SPECIFIC, CHIAO CITED THE APPOINTMENT OF LEONARD UNGER AS AMBASSADOR TO TAIPEI AND THE EXPANSION OF GRC CONSULAR FACILITIES IN THE UNITED STATES AS CASES IN POINT. HE STRESSED THAT THESE DECISIONS WERE NOT OF GREAT IMPORTANCE IN THEMSELVES, BUT SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR THE CHINESE PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND THESE ACTIONS WHILE THE U.S., AT THE SAME TIME, SAYS IT WANTS TO IMPORVE RELATIONS WITH THE PRC.

3. CHIAO WANTED MY IMPRESSIONS OF THE EUROPEAN SITUATION AND THE ATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP WHICH I GAVE HIM CANDIDLY. I TOLD HIM NEW ELECTIONS IN ENGLAND MIGHT NOT TAKE PLACE WITHIN A YEAR, BUT SAID I THOUGHT BRITISH ECONOMY IS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE. DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH SEA OIL FIELDS WOULD HELP, BUT THIS WAS STILL SOME TIME AWAY. I AGREED WITH HIM THERE PROBABLY WILL BE NO MAJOR CHANGES IN BRITISH FOREIGN POLICY UNDER A LABOR GOVERNMENT BECAUSE OF ITS DEPENDENCE ON SUPPORT FROM THE CONSERVATIVES AND LIBERALS, PARTICULARLY THE LATTER. I REMARKED THAT CALLAGHAN HAD NO FOREIGN AFFAIRS EXPERIENCE, AND WILSON WILL PROBABLY CLOSELY SUPERVISE FOREIGN AFFAIRS, A FIELD HE FANCIES. IN FRANCE, I SAID, A MAJOR PROBLEM WAS THE SUCCESSION TO POMPIDOU. I TOLD HIM I FOUND THE FRENCH PEOPLE BASICALLY SECRET

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UNDISTURBED, BUT NOTED THAT FRENCH POLICY MAKERS CONTINUED TO WANT TO DOMINATE THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. CHIAO SEEMED WORRIED ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR EUROPEAN COHESION, BUT SAID EUROPE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO RELY ON THE U.S. IN A CONFRONTATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION. I CONCLUDED THAT, WHILE WE HAD PROBLEMS WITH FRANCE, THEY WERE NOT INSURMOUNTABLE.

4. CONVERSATION DURING DINNER CENTERED ON THE MIDDLE EAST, WITH CHIAO URGING CONTINUED U.S. EFFORTS TO FIND A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. THE SECRETARY HAD ACHIEVED A MAJOR SUCCESS IN SECURING EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI WITHDRAWALS ON THE WESTERN FRONT, AND A SIMILAR SUCCESS COULD BE ACHIEVED IN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS WITH SYRIA, GIVEN A MAJOR EFFORT BY THE U.S. TO SECURE COMPROMISES ON BOTH SIDES. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD ATTEMPT TO IMPEDU U.S. EFFORTS TOWARD A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT, AND STRESSED IT WOULD BE A MAJOR SOVIET GAIN IF THE U.S. FAILS. WHEN I MENTIONED THAT LIBYA WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN LONG TERM MIDDLE EAST STABILITY, CHIAO EXPRESSED PUZZLEMENT OVER LIBYA'S POLICIES, AND SAID SEVERAL CONTACTS BETWEEN PRC AND LIBYAN REPRESENTATIVES HAD COME TO NOUGHT DUE TO EXCESSIVE LIBYAN DEMANDS. NO ONE, HE SAID, CAN UNDERSTAND KHADAFI.

5. UNFORTUNATELY, CHIAO HAD LITTLE TO SAY ABOUT THE SPECIAL UNGA SESSION. HE EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT NOTHING MAJOR WOULD COME OUT OF THE CONFERENCE, AND SAID HE PLANS TO STAY ONLY THE FIRST WEEK OF THE THREE WEEK SESSION. HE IS ANXIOUS TO SEE THE SECRETARY.

6. UNDERLYING CHIAO'S REMARKS ON EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST WAS HIS BITTER DISTRUST OF THE SOVIETS. HE WARNED AGAIN OF THE DANGERS OF SALT NEGOTIATIONS WITH MOSCOW. CHINA WAS NOT IN PRINCIPLE OPPOSED TO SALT NEGOTIATIONS BUT ANY AGREEMENT MUST BE GENUINE; THIS HE FOLLOWED BY PRONOUNCING THE SOVIETS "THE MOST PERFIDIOUS PEOPLE IN THE WORLD". I ASSURED HIM WE WERE UNDER NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THEM.
BRUCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS COMMENTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, AMBASSADORS, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PEKING00579
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740079-0175
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740461/aaaacdht.tel
Line Count: 146
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATION WITH VICE FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO KUAN-HUA BEGIN SUMMARY: VICE FONMIN CHIAO KUAN-HUA SAID THERE
TAGS: PFOR, CH, US, TW, XF, (CHIAO KUAN-HUA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005